

AMPHIOXUS LANCEOLATUS.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

Falmouth, September 23, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,—The "*Amphioxus lanceolatus*," Yarrell, was found in dredger's refuse from Gwyllyn Vase Bay on Friday last, by Mr. Henry Bastian of this town. Length one inch and one-sixteenth; breadth in the middle one-eighth of an inch; of a lanceolate form, tapering to each extremity, riband-like, transparent as crystal; mouth circular, produced, armed with long slender cirrhi, crenated laterally; when these are reflexed, the passage to the oral aperture is considerably increased in length and diameter, and the water, with its crustacea, &c., has ready ingress, assisted by the ciliary current. The animal closes the aperture by contracting and crossing the free extremities of the cirrhi. It swims rapidly with a wriggling or snake-like motion for a few seconds, and then suddenly settles down at the bottom of the vessel, where it remains motionless, lying flat on its side, with the mouth open to its fullest extent (to all appearance dead), for thirty or forty minutes, or longer if not disturbed. Two days after its capture, I put into the vessel (of water) a quantity of shell-sand, which at first appeared to excite it very much, for it swam with increased velocity for a second or two, and then suddenly disappeared under the bed of sand formed at the bottom of the glass.

Fifty minutes after this occurrence, I was pleased to see one-third of the body projecting in a vertical direction from the surface of the sand, its mouth open, and the cirrhi slightly reflected at their extremities; but on agitating the water with a piece of straw, the body was partially drawn in, and on repeating the annoyance it disappeared altogether.

This morning the body was completely covered (over) with the sand, but the open mouth could be seen just above the surface of it—awaiting its prey (?). I consider it a scarce fish in our neighbourhood, not a rare one. Its rarity arises from the naturalist being ignorant of its habitats, and selecting ground for his dredging operations incompatible with the movements of the fish. Dr. Vigurs's fish (1851) carried ova. Mr. Bastian's is a young one.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

W. P. COCKS.

Description of a newly discovered Tanager of the genus Buarremon.

By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A. &c.

Through the kindness of Sir William Jardine I am enabled to describe a specimen of a very distinct species of *Buarremon*, which Professor Jameson of Quito has lately transmitted to this country. It was obtained by him during a recent expedition into the eastern Cordillera of the Andes near Quito at an elevation of 6000 feet above the sea-level. In form and size it is similar to *B. pallidinuchus*, but the style of coloration is different and more nearly resembles that